

CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 3.4
TITLE: IMMUNOTHERAPY FOR MALIGNANT DISEASE

AUTHORITY: 38 CFR 17.272(a)(73)

RELATED AUTHORITY: 32 CFR 199.4(g)(15)

I. EFFECTIVE DATES

A. October 12, 1984

B. Effective March 6, 1986, Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccine in intravesical immunotherapy for treatment of Stage O and Stage A carcinoma of the bladder may be cost shared.

II. PROCEDURE CODE(S)

90799

III. DESCRIPTION

The treatment of malignant disease by administration of purified antigen, autogenous vaccine, performed antibodies, purified protein derivatives, "deblocking proteins", immunizing agents, and live bacteria vaccines.

IV. POLICY

Immunotherapy for malignant diseases is considered investigational and is not covered, except **when using drugs approved by the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) as indicated below.** This includes all associated pathology and radiology service performed to determine antibody levels, and all other related services and supplies.

V. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The FDA has approved several immunotherapies for use against specific cancers, including BC-G (Bacille Calmette-Guerin), IFN-Alpha (Interferon-Alpha), IL-2 (Interleukin-2), and approved monoclonal antibodies.

VI. EXCLUSIONS

A. ALT (Autolymphocyte Therapy) or immunotherapy when used for treating metastatic kidney cancer patients.

B. Immunotherapy for malignant diseases except for treatment of Stage O and Stage A carcinoma of the bladder. [38 CFR 17.272(a)(73)]

END OF POLICY